

REMARKS:

The adjustable interconnection/variable positioning concept recited in claims 3, 22, and 28 has been incorporated into the independent claims from which each of those dependent claims depends. To the extent the dependent claims were again rejected as anticipated by Brown, Applicant traverses the rejection. What the Examiner construes as the claim-recited adjustable interconnection in Brown is an adjustment mechanism that allows the practitioner to vary the tension in a spring, thereby modifying the effort it takes to crack open the exhaust valve. That has nothing to do with varying the position of the suction inlet relative to the patient's mouth. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the various rejections and allowance of this application.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 8002.002.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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Respectfully submitted,

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